

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRIDGETOWN CARACAS KINGSTON
PORT OF SPAIN FROM GEORGETOWN DTD 10 SEPT 1976 QTE

CONFIDENTIAL GEORGETOWN 1810

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, ASEC, TD, CY, GY

SUBJECT: TERRORISM AND ASSASSINATION PLOTS: MEETING WITH WILLS

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 1778, (B) STATE 222482

SUMMARY: DURING MEETING WITH FONMIN WILLS SEPTEMBER 10, LEGAL ATTACHE JOE LEO PROVIDED BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CUBAN EXILE ORGANIZATIONS AND A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON HIS FINDINGS CONCERNING THE BOMBING OF THE GUYANESE CONSULATE IN PORT OF SPAIN. LEO PROMISED TO SEND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO CARACAS AND I TOLD WILLS THAT I EXPECTED TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON. WILLS REPORTED THAT HE HAD BEEN BACKED AT THE SEPTEMBER CONFIDENTIAL

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7 CABINET MEETING BY BURNHAM AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER REID IN HIS

CONTENTION THAT THE US WAS NOT BEHIND THE TERRORIST ACTS OR ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLOTS. NEVERTHELESS, THE TENSION WAS HIGH AND HE HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH MAKING ANOTHER REPORT TO THE CABINET ON SEPTEMBER 14. WILLS HAD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT GIL NOBLE HAD RECENTLY VISITED CUBA. WILLS' HANDLING OF THE ALLEGATIONS OF USG LINKS TO ANTI-CASTRO CUBANS AND ASSASSINATION PLOTS DURING PAST WEEK BEARS OUT HIS CONTENTION THAT HE HAS DEFENDED US ON THIS ISSUE. I URGE THAT DEPARTMENT CABLE INFORMATION THAT IT HAS OBTAINED BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, SO THAT I CAN PROVIDE IT TO WILLS PRIOR TO TUESDAY'S CABINET MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. LEGAL ATTACHE JOE LEO AND I MET WITH FONMIN WILLS THIS MORNING, SEPTEMBER 10, TO REPORT INFORMATION ON CUBAN EXILE GROUPS AND THEIR METHOD OF OPERATION. THE MEETING LASTED AN HOUR. WILLS EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING AND FOR LEO'S PROMISE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INCLUDING THE FINDINGS OF THE FBI LABORATORY'S ANALYSIS OF MATERIAL TAKEN FROM THE SITE OF BOMBING AT THE GUYANESE CONSULATE IN TRINIDAD.

2. LEO STRESSED THAT THE COORDINATION OF UNITED REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS (CORU) AND ITS LEADER ORLANDO BOSCH WERE OPERATING OUT OF SANTO DOMINGO RATHER THAN MIAMI, FLORIDA. HE DESCRIBED THE BOMBINGS PERPETRATED IN MIAMI THIS SUMMER BY CUBAN EXILE OTERO AND HIS RECENT TRIAL.

3. WILLS ASKED WHETHER IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO DEMAND EXTRADITION FROM SANTO DOMINGO OF FUGITIVES FROM ITS LAWS. THE RESPONSE WAS THAT THE CRIMES COMMITTED WERE NOT COVERED IN EXTRADITION TREATIES WHICH ARE NOW SOMEWHAT BEHIND THE TIMES. WILLS THEN CONCLUDED THAT SINCE LEGAL ACTION APPEARED IMPOSSIBLE, DIPLOMATIC PRESSURES REMAINED THE ONLY LEVER FOR USE TO PERSUADE SANTO DOMINGO TO WITHDRAW ITS HOSPITALITY FROM THE TERRORIST GROUPS. HE SURMISED THAT GUYANA COULD OBTAIN THE COOPERATION OF PERHAPS AS MANY AS 60 THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN PROTESTING SANTO DOMINGO'S OFFERING OF A HAVEN TO TERRORISTS.

4. WILLS RECOUNTED BRIEFLY THE GENERAL SCENARIO AT THE CABINET MEETING WHICH FOLLOWED HIS MEETING WITH ME LAST TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7. NINETY PERCENT OF THE DAY-LONG MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO THE MATTERS OF TERRORISM AND SECURITY. HE REPEATED FOR LEO WHAT HE HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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TOLD ME EARLIER, I.E; THAT EVEN "LITTLE REVOLUTIONS" GENERATED THEIR "CONSCIOUS VILLAIN" WHICH IN THIS CASE WAS IMPERIALISM, I.E; THE UNITED STATES. SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES THINK IN THE FOLLOWING FASHION: WHO IN THE HEMISPHERE HAS THE GREATEST INTEREST IN ATTACKING CUBA AND OTHER REGIMES THAT HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH CUBA? THEIR ANSWER IS OBVIOUS: THE UNITED STATES. WILLS SAID THAT HE HAD OPPOSED THIS LINE OF THINKING AND HAD TRIUMPHED. BURNHAM AND, SURPRISINGLY, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER REID, HAD ENDED UP SUPPORTING

HIS THESIS THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT INVOLVED. HOWEVER, THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR HERE WAS CONSTANTLY SOWING SUSPICION OF THE UNITED STATES. THERE WAS A TENDENCY OF SOME CABINET MEMBERS--BUT NOT ALL OF THEM-- TO THINK OF THE UNITED STATES AND GROUPS LINKED TO IT WHEN THE QUESTION OF THE SECURITY OF THE GOVT AND ITS LEADERS WAS INVOLVED.

5. WILLS SAID THAT HIS LINE IN THE CABINET MEETINGS HAS BEEN THAT GUYANA SHOULD AVOID "OBTUSE HATREDS". NEVERTHELESS EMOTIONS AND SOMETIMES IDIACY RAN HIGH. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CABINET HAD DECIED THAT HE, WILLS, WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH THREE BODYGUARDS DURING HIS TRIP TO THE UNITED NATIONS. HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO AVOID THIS DESPITE HIS ARGUMENTS THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THAT HE DID NOT WANT THE BODYGUARDS.

6. WILLS SAID THE GOG HAD REPORTS THAT THE "MANO BLANCO" WAS LINKED IN SOME WAY TO CUBAN EXILES. MARIO SANDOVAL AND ROBERTO ARANA SOPANA (SIC) ALLEGEDLY WERE PROVIDING MONEY TO ORLANDO BOSCH. WILLS ASKED WHETHER WE COULD GIVE HIM ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MANO BLANCO AND THESE TWO MEN.

7. LEO EXPLAINED THAT BOSCH AND FRANK CASTRO OBTAINED MONEY FROM EXILED CUBANS LOCATED ALL OVER LATIN AMERICA. THESE CUBANS CONSIDERED IT TO BE AN HONOR AS WELL A DUTY TO CONTRIBUTE TO ANTI-CASTRO ORGANIZATIONS. THEREFORE, BOSCH DID NOT LACK MONEY.

8. WILLS ASKED WHETHER AN EARL WILLIAMSON, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN COSTA RICA, HAD BEEN EXPelled BY THE COSTA RICAN GOVT. ALLEGEDLY WILLIAMSON HAD MAINTAINED CERTAIN CONNECTIONS WITH CUBAN EXILES. WE RESPONDED THAT (CONT...) IF ANY US OFFICIAL HAD BEEN EXPelled OR DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA IN COSTA RICA, WE WERE UNAWARE OF IT.
COMMENT: I SURMISE THAT THE ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING
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WILLIAMSON AND THOSE IN PARA 5 ABOVE EMANATED FROM THE CUBAN EMBASSY HERE, OR FROM PHILLIP AGEE IN JAMAICA.

9. CONCERNING GIL NOBLE (SEE REF A), WILLS PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT NOBLE, FOLLOWING HIS COMMUNICATION WITH WILLS' SOURCE IN NEW YORK, HAD TURNED UP IN CUBA. HE HAD VISITED THE GUYANESE, NORTH KOREAN AND SIERRA LEONEAN EMBASSIES IN HAVANA. THE ASSASSINATION PLOT (REF A) DIRECTED AGAINST GUYANA'S LEADERS ALSO TARGETED JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER MANLEY. THE TIMING OF THE EXECUTION OF THE PLOT WAS TO BE SOMETIMES WITHIN AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER.

10. BECAUSE OF THE REPORTS OF AN ASSASSINATION PLOT, WILLS HAD ADVISED BURNHAM TO CANCEL HIS TRIP TO CANADA IN OCTOBER AND THE PM HAD DECIDED NOT TO GO. WILLS HAD ALSO INFORMED MANLEY OF THE ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLOTS IN THE EVENT THAT MANLEY, WHO ALSO WAS SCHEDULED TO GO TO CANADA IN OCTOBER, MIGHT WISH TO RECONSIDER HIS TRAVEL PLANS.

11. I TOLD WILLS THAT THE INFORMATION ABOUT NOBLE'S TRIP TO CUBA MADE ME SUSPECT EVEN MORE STRONGLY THAN BEFORE THAT THE HAVANA CUBANS WERE POISONING OUR WELL AND CREATING ANXIETY AMONG GUYANESE LEADERS. WILLS AGREED THAT THIS COULD BE POSSIBLE AND SAID THAT THE CUBANS WERE DOING EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO MAKE GUYANA "LEAN TO THEM."

12. WILLS SAID BURNHAM HAD TASKED HIM WITH PROVIDING ANOTHER REPORT ON THE ASSASSINATION PLOTS AND CUBAN EXILE ACTIVITY AT THE NEXT CABINET MEETING SEPTEMBER 14. THE INFORMATION WHICH LEO HAD BROUGHT CONCERNING CUBAN EXILE ACTIVITY AND THE UNITED STATES ATTITUDE TOWARD THEM WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HIM. HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR OUR ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO HOPED THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE HIM SOME RESPONSE TO HIS

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QUERIES CONCERNING GIL NOBLE AND THE ASSASSINATION PLOTS BY MONDAY EVENING.

13. PRIOR TO LEAVING WILLS' OFFICE, LEO AGAIN REASSURED WILLS THAT THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND THE FBI IN PARTICULAR STRONGLY OPPOSED THE ACTIVITIES OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING THOSE OF THE CUBAN EXILES. NO ACTIVITY OF ANY SORT WAS BEING DIRECTED AGAINST GUYANA BY US AGENCIES. WILLS RESPONDED THAT HE PERSONALLY KNEW THAT OR "OTHERWISE I WOULD NOT HAVE ASKED YOU TO COME."

14. COMMENT: I BELIEVE WILLS IS CONVINCED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT LINKED TO THE GROUPS WHICH HAVE BEEN DOING THE BOMBINGS. MY OBSERVATION OF HIS HANDLING OF THIS SITUATION SINCE LAST WEEK AND HIS CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH US ALSO INDICATE THAT HE IS WORKING WITHIN HIS OWN SYSTEM TO REDUCE THE SUSPICION DIRECTED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. THE MORE HARD FACTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION WE CAN PROVIDE HIM, THE HIGHER WILL BE HIS CREDIBILITY IN THIS MATTER. I URGE THAT WE

DO ALL WE CAN TO HAVE ADDITIONAL USEFUL INFORMATION
TO PROVIDE HIM PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER 14 CABINET
MEETING. BY DOING SO, WE WILL (1) REINFORCE THE
IMPRESSION OF UNITED STATES WILLINGNESS TO
COOPERATE WITH GUYANA AGAINST TERRORISM AND
(2) FURTHER DISASSOCIATE THE UNITED STATES FROM
THE CUBAN EXILES IN GUYANESE MINDS.
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